

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the very thorough consideration given the present application.

Claims 1-8 are now present in this application. Claims 1 and 8 are independent.

Amendments have been made to the specification, and claims 1 and 8 have been amended. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Reasons for Entry of Amendments

At the outset, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered into the Official File in view of the fact that the amendments to the claims automatically place the application in condition for allowance.

In the alternative, if the Examiner does not agree that this application is in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered for the purpose of appeal. This Amendment reduces the issues on appeal. This Amendment was not presented at an earlier date in view of the fact that Applicant did not fully appreciate the Examiner's position until the Final Office Action was reviewed.

Drawings

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that the drawings filed on June 1, 2004 have been accepted.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd Paragraph

Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd Paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner has set forth certain instances wherein the claim language is indefinite. Particularly, the Examiner asserts that transmitting signals from the second control unit to the first control unit (lines 6-7) is the same as receiving signals from the second control unit by the first control unit (lines 9-10); and "A transmission confirmation signal of the second control unit by the first control unit" (lines 10-11) is the same as "a reception confirmation signal of the second control unit by the first control unit" (lines 4-5).

In response, the Applicant respectfully submits that even if these features were the same, the Applicant has not placed a limit on how many times transmission/reception and confirmation can occur. In fact, the Applicant's disclosure provides that these processes are performed more than once.

Further, the Applicant submits that (in general) transmission by one control unit does not automatically mean reception by another control unit

(transmission and/or reception can sometimes fail). Otherwise, confirmation would not be needed. Further, if failures did not occur, there would be less of a need for the Applicant's claimed independent controls systems, each being capable of performing the same functions as the other.

Therefore, there is no redundancy in the claims. Both first and second control units are capable of transmitting a signal and both first and second control units are capable of signal reception confirmation. Further, both first and second control units are capable of signal transmission confirmation. Even so, the Applicant's claims recite only one instance of signal transmission confirmation (however, another could be added without being redundant). Applicant notes that (even generally speaking) transmission confirmation of a signal and reception confirmation of a signal are not always necessarily the same operation.

Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-7 particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-5 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,811,279 to Bean et al. (Bean). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

A complete discussion of the Examiner's rejection is set forth in the Office Action, and is not being repeated here.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 has been amended to recite a combination of elements in a method for serial data communication which transmits and receives data in two-way, including transmitting data and a separate clock signal from the second control unit to the first control unit, at the same time checking a reception confirmation signal of the first control unit by the second control unit; and receiving the data and the separate clock signal from the second control unit by the first control unit, at the same time checking a transmission confirmation signal of the second control unit by the first control unit. Applicant respectfully submits that this combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 1 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Bean.

The Examiner states that Beans discloses a method for serial data communication, which transmits and receives data in two-way, comprising

transmitting data and a clock signal from a first control unit (block 20) to a second control unit (block 30).

The Applicant respectfully submits that the first control unit of Bean (block 20) does not transmit a separate clock signal. Similarly, the asserted second control unit of Bean (block 30) does not transmit a separate clock signal. Bean provides explicitly that there is no provision for a separate clock signal to be transmitted (Bean, Col.5, lines 16-27). Hence, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102 is improper. Further, the asserted second control unit of Bean (block 30) is a receiver only, and cannot perform the same function as the first control unit of the Applicant's claimed invention.

Applicant therefore respectfully submits that the combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 1 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Bean, for the reasons explained above. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

With regard to dependent claims 2-7, Applicant submits that claims 2-7 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 1 which is allowable for the reasons set forth above, and therefore claims 2-7 are allowable based on their dependence from claim 1. Reconsideration and allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bean in view of Knoblock et al. (Knoblock) and further in view of Wong. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

A complete discussion of the Examiner's rejection is set forth in the Office Action, and is not being repeated here.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 8 has been amended to recite a combination of elements in an apparatus for serial data communication, including four serial buses for performing serial data transmission and clock signal transmission between the two control units, each of said control units transmitting a clock signal separately from a data signal. Applicant respectfully submits that this combination of elements is not disclosed or suggested by the prior art of record, including Bean.

Particularly, Bean provides explicitly that there is no provision for a separate clock signal to be transmitted (Bean, Col.5, lines 16-27). Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 8 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Bean. Neither Knoblock, nor Wong can supply the deficiency of Bean.

Since neither Bean, nor Knoblock, nor Wong teaches or suggests the above-recited features of independent claim 8, as amended, Bean, in view of Knoblock, and further in view of Wong cannot render claim 8 obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Percy L. Square, Registration No. 51,084, at (703) 205-8034, in the Washington, D.C. area.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicant respectfully petitions for a two (2) month extension of time for filing a response in connection

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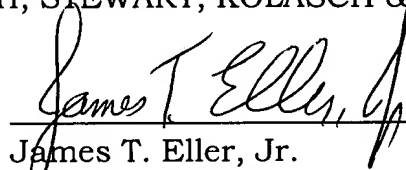
with the present application and the required fee of \$450 is being filed concurrently herewith.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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